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DISPATCH NO. MGLA-3144

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TO : Chief, Foreign Division M

DATE: 24 August 1950

FROM : Chief of Station, Karlsruhe *1/8/50*

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational *1/8/50*

SPECIFIC— Willy FRIEDE

Ref: MGLA-1512(22 6 6 206y)

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JAMES H. HARRIS

The following is submitted as additional information on the background and possible activities of subject. The material is based upon hand-written notes of [C], and we have not made any attempts to check it with OFFSPRING.

1. The first information, dated April 1949, states that Former SS officer, Colonel FRIEDE is currently residing in Rome and allegedly working as an informant for the Russian Embassy, Rome. FRIEDE is a personal friend of Luigi LONGO, Italy's Number Two Communist and reportedly is in direct contact with TOGLIATTI's secretary Bernard BASSON. It is believed that FRIEDE is the liaison man between TOGLIATTI's office and the Russian Embassy, Rome.

2. Another note states that the following information on FRIEDE has been received from Italian police sources:

a. FRIEDE, son of Wilhelm and Ida nee HAMANN, was born in Arendsee, CSR, on 30 September 1912. He served as a Colonel in the SS.

b. Since 1947 he has lived continuously in Rome at via Ravenna 11, with his mistress, Magda BOLSI. He received from the Italian authorities a displaced persons' passport with permission to visit South Africa. In 1948 he received an extended sojourn permit and a visa for Argentina. However, there is no record of his having left Italy since his arrival in 1947.

c. FRIEDE is married to Lieselotte SCHNAK, a German citizen, residing in Bern. He has had for a mistress a fellow national named Gertrude BACHOW, who is an ex-interpreter in the German Navy headquarters; at present she works as a translator in the Anglo-Italian Society, located on via ~~Torre~~ Diocleziano in Rome.

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32-6-6-4/66

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d. FRIEDE declares himself to be a writer, but nothing is known of his work or of his actual means of livelihood.

3. In later information, dated September 1949, it was reported that the Italian Counter Intelligence Office "CS" is well aware of the fact that former SS Colonel FRIEDE is a double agent working for both the Italian Intelligence Service and the Soviet Embassy in Rome. Subsource claims that FRIEDE furnishes the Italian CS with a great deal of valuable information concerning the USSR and therefore, no action is taken against him. Colonel FRIEDE has been living in Rome for some time and makes it a habit to change his place of residence with great frequency. As of 20 August 1949, he could be reached in Rome at telephone 830 431.

4. In March 1950, the Italian police source, who personally conducted the investigation, states that FRIEDE is definitely working for the Italian Counter Intelligence Service (Contro Spionaggio). Subsource, who is a friend of Major PICCARDO (the chief of the Contro Spionaggio) states that he has seen FRIEDE in PICCARDO's office on several occasions. Source believes he will eventually be able to obtain through subsource either the originals or copies of reports that FRIEDE has submitted to PICCARDO. Source also visited PICCARDO and asked the latter if he were aware of the fact that FRIEDE has contacts with the German Communist group in Italy, namely one Peter von der MARWITZ and one Ernest LIPKAU. PICCARDO is supposed to have answered: "We know this, but FRIEDE is useful to us. When we no longer want him and the other Germans in Rome who are working for the Soviets, we shall send them home." A case officer's comment is appended to the above notes which indicates that the American MA, Rome, asked an unnamed Italian intelligence officer for an explanation and got a complete denial regarding FRIEDE.

Dist:

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